

## CLAIMS

1. A string trimmer comprising an elongate shaft; a cutting head rotatably mounted on one end of the elongate shaft; at least one cutting member which extends from the cutting head and a barrier which is capable of being used by an operator to move vegetation away from a path swept out by the cutting member when it rotates characterised in that the barrier is pivotally mounted about a single pivot axis on the string trimmer and, when the cutting head is rotating in a flat position is capable of pivoting from a position above the path swept out by the cutting member to a position below the path swept out by the cutting member without passing through the path swept out by the cutting member.
2. A string trimmer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the axis of pivot is substantially perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the cutting head when the cutting head is in a flat cutting position
3. A string trimmer as claimed in either of the claims 1 or 2 wherein the axis of pivot of the band is substantially perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the cutting head when the cutting head is in a vertical edge cutting position.
4. A string trimmer as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein the barrier is capable of pivoting through at least 270°.
5. A string trimmer as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein the barrier is capable of pivoting from a first position where it is located on one side of the elongate shaft to a second position where it is located on the other side of the elongate shaft.
6. A string trimmer as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein the barrier has suitable dimensions so that it is capable of surrounding the edge of the path swept out by the cutting member when it is rotating.

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7. A string trimmer as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein the barrier is capable of pivoting to a position wherein it projects forward of the string trimmer.
- 5 8. A string trimmer as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein the barrier is capable of pivoting to a position where it projects downwardly from the string trimmer.
9. A string trimmer as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein the barrier is capable of pivoting to a position which it projects rearward from the string trimmer.
- 10 10. A string trimmer as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein there is further provided a guard, the barrier being capable of pivoting to a position where it surrounds the rear of the guard.
- 15 11. A string trimmer as claimed in claim 10 wherein the barrier is pivotally mounted on the guard.
- 20 12. A string trimmer as claimed on any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein there is further provided a guard, the barrier being capable of pivoting to a position where the guard surrounds at least part or all of the barrier.
13. A string trimmer as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein barrier is pivotally mounted on the string trimmer at each end of its ends by pivot mechanisms.
- 25 14. A string trimmer as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein the barrier can be latched in a plurality of predetermined angular positions.
- 30 15. A string trimmer as claimed in claim 14 wherein the barrier can be latched in six predetermined angular positions.

16. A string trimmer as claimed in any one of the previous claims wherein the barrier is in the form of a band which is pivotally mounted at each of its ends.

17. A string trimmer as claimed in claim 16 where the band curves from one pivot point around to the other pivot point.

18. A barrier for use on a string trimmer comprising an elongate shaft;

a cutting head rotatably mounted on one end of the elongate shaft;

at least one cutting member which extends from the cutting head

the barrier being capable of being used by an operator to move vegetation away from a path swept out by the cutting member when it rotates characterised in that the barrier is capable of being pivotally mounted on a string trimmer about a single axis in a manner where it can pivot from a first position above a path swept out by a cutting member to a position where it is below a path swept out by a cutting member without passing through the path swept out by the cutting member when the cutting head is rotating in a flat cutting position.

19. A barrier as claimed in claim 16 wherein the barrier is capable of being pivotally mounted on a guard of a string trimmer.

20. A barrier as claimed in either of claims 17 or 18 wherein the barrier is capable of being pivotally mounted on a string trimmer at each of its ends of pivot mechanisms.

21. A barrier as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 19 wherein the barrier is capable of being mounted on a string trimmer in such a manner that it can be latched in a plurality of angular positions in relation to the string trimmer.

22. A barrier is claimed in any one of claims 18 to 21 wherein the barrier is a band capable of being pivotally mounted at each of its ends.

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A2 23. A ~~barrier~~ as claimed in claim 22 wherein the band curves from the first pivot point to the ~~second~~ pivot point.

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